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**House Republican Conference**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

**Letter to HBCU Presidents and Members of the HBCU Task Force**

November 18, 2000

As we conclude the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, I wanted to bring you up to date on the progress we have made in our efforts to increase federal support for our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

We began the journey to our historic June 15, 2000 HBCU Summit almost a year ago when we initiated a dialogue between HBCU presidents and House Republicans. The Summit provided an invaluable forum for my colleagues who hold key committee and leadership positions to hear directly from you about your needs.

To ensure that our Summit produced tangible congressional results, we announced the establishment of an HBCU Task Force. The Task Force is in place, and serves both as a source of new ideas about how and where we can best assist HBCUs and as an information center that provides insight about the changing landscape of higher education. I have met with several Presidents on the Task Force and with Representatives Dickey, Hoekstra and Kingston regarding specific FY 2001 funding requests, and I have communicated those funding priorities to the key committee chairman.

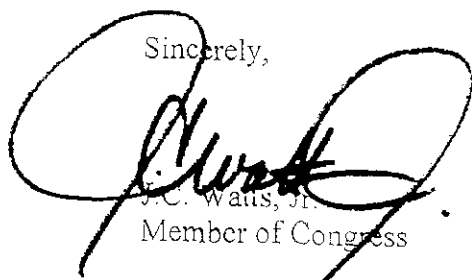
We are delighted to be able to tell you that at this point that we have been able to accomplish the following:

- ❖ Increased funding from FY2000 level in 28 of the 46 line items that affect HBCUs.
- ❖ Increased funding from the original FY2001 mark in 13 line items in Labor-HHS, Agriculture, and Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations.

As soon as we complete the work of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, I will be in contact with you to provide a detailed analysis of the final funding levels and will post the numbers on our HBCU website at:

<http://www.hillsource.gov/hbcu> . Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Elroy Sailor, my Director of Policy, at 202-225-5107.

Sincerely,



J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Member of Congress